

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS REACTION TO ARMS EMBARGO DEVELOPMENTS

1. MAJOR TURKISH DAILIES SATURDAY (JULY 12) GAVE TOP FRONT PAGE
PLAY TO ACTION BY THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO
LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY.

2. HEADLINE TREATMENT AND STORY FOCUS DIVERGED CONSIDERABLY:
--MILLIYET'S BANNER, OVER A STRAIGHTFORWARD ACCOUNT
BY CORRESPONDENT SAMI KOHEN OF FRIDAY'S ACTION, SAID: "U.S.
FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE (11 AGAINST 17 FOR) ACCEPTED THE
PROPOSAL-- THE PROPOSAL GIVING ARMS TO TURKEY FOR CASH PAYMENT
WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE HOUSE".

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--HURRIYET'S BANNER DECLARED: "AMERICAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES JUDGED TURKEY--THE INSOLENT OF GREEK SUPPORTERS REACHED AN UNBELIEVABLE DEGREE". UNDER IT WAS AN INTERPRETIVE REPORT BY CORRESPONDENT DOGAN ULUC, WHO COMPARED THE COMMITTEE MEETING TO A COURT SESSION AND PRO-EMBARGO CONGRESSMEN AND WITNESSES TO PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS. IN ADDITION, HURRIYET ALSO CARRIED A FRONT PAGE, WIRE SERVICE BASED ACCOUNT OF THE COMMITTEE'S ACTION.

--GUNAYDIN'S FRONT PAGE BANNER AND STORY FOCUSED ON TESTIMONY BY UNDER SECRETARY SISCO IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT TURKEY HAD DECLINED TO ACCEPT AID FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL \$50 MILLION FUND.

3. IN RELATED COVERAGE, HURRIYET RAN A CENTER-FOLD, EIGHT COLUMN-HEADLINED STORY THAT: "THE AMERICANS ARE EVACUATING TURKEY". THE STORY WAS BASED ON THE DECLINE OF USAID PERSONNEL, THE RECENT SHIPMENT THROUGH ISKENDERUN OF MATERIAL FROM COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS, AND AN ALLEGED REDUCTION IN MILITARY PERSONNEL. A SUB-HEADLINE SAID: "ALL OF JUSMMAT'S GENERALS HAVE LEFT TURKEY."

4. IN COMMENTARY SATURDAY, HURRIYET CARRIED A FRONT PAGE COLUMN BY PRESTIGIOUS ANALYST METIN TOKER, WHO SAID THE U.S. IS TREATING TURKEY LIKE A NATION OF "HOTTENTOTS". "...ACCORDING TO THE NEW FFER, AMERICAN WOULD AGREE TO DELIVER AIRPLANES AND SPARE PARTS WHICH TURKEY HAS BOUGHT AND PAID FOR AND WHICH THUS HAVE BECOME TURKISH PROPERTY. TO BEHAVE IN A CONTRARY MANNER WOULD BE CHICAGO-STYLE GANGSTERISM," TOKER SAID. HE CONCLUDED THAT AMERICA IS CHANGING AND THAT IN LIGHT OF THIS, IT WOULD BENEFIT BOTH TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES TO ALTER THEIR RELATIONS.

5. IN AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL, GUNAYDIN REVIEWED PAST U.S. ACTIONS WHICH IT JUDGED TO BE CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF LOYALTY AND FRIENDSHIP WHICH TURKEY HAD EXHIBITED TOWARD THE U.S. DESPITE THESE SHOCK, GUNAYDIN SAID, TURKEY HAS NEVER IN THE PAST FELT OBLIGED TO LOOK ELSEWHERE THAT TO THE NATO ALLIANCE SYSTEM. IF SHE SHOULD FEEL THAT NEED NOW, IN LIGHT OF HER TREATMENT BY THE U.S., NOBODY CAN BLAME HER, GUNAYDIN CONCLUDED.

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6. IN ANOTHER UNSIGNED EDITORIAL, CUMHURİYET NOTED REPORTS THAT TURKEY MAY ASK FOR RENT IN RETURN FOR U.S. INSTALLATIONS AND SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE YET ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE CHANGED RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE U.S. BUT CUMHURİYET WARNED THAT DISCUSSION OF SUCH DETAILS HAS DIVERTED ATTENTION FROM THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION, THAT THE U.S. IS CONTINUING TO USE THE ARMS QUESTION AS A MEANS OF PRESSURE ON TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY. BERGUS

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